

either choice if we do nothing to address the problem of long-term debt. Regardless of the global threats we face, we will be forced to field a smaller and less capable force. The money will not be there.

When most Americans think about threats to our security, they come up with a standard list. But few people include our growing national debt. They should—because it is real and it is serious.

Based on current trends, it is quite possible to imagine some future Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff walking into the Oval Office one day and informing the Commander in Chief that he has no choice: he can either protect the sealanes in the Persian Gulf or he can protect the sealanes in the Sea of Japan, but he cannot do both. On that day the United States of America will no longer be the guarantor of the international trading system, sea lines of communication, the security of our allies, or even our own independence.

All of this should matter to Members of the Senate. Americans trust our Nation's intelligence and uniformed personnel to protect them from distant threats. But it is incumbent upon the men and women of this body—those of us who control the purse strings—to make sure the Nation's resources are managed in a way that enables these forces to do their work. The men and women of the Senate must look beyond the narrow demands of a single political term in office or the next election to the long-term security of our Nation and, indeed, the world. No one else can protect the American people from the diminishment of power and capability that come with our dangerous and ever-increasing national debt.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRIAN L. GORHAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, with sadness I rise today to speak about a fallen warrior from my home State of Kentucky. On December 31, 2007, PFC Brian L. Gorham succumbed to injuries sustained earlier that month when an explosive device struck his vehicle while on patrol in Afghanistan.

Private First Class Gorham hailed from Woodburn, KY. He was 21 years old and was able to spend the last days of his life not halfway around the world but back in America—in a hospital in Fort Sam Houston, TX, to be precise—surrounded by his loving family.

For his bravery in uniform, Private First Class Gorham received several medals, awards, and decorations, including the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star Medal.

At Brian's funeral service in Franklin, KY, hundreds of people came to offer their sympathies to his family and friends. Brian's father, Toney Gorham, said:

It's hard to believe that so many people, a lot of them I don't know, walked up to me,

shook my hand or patted me on the back, and told me, "We're proud that your son fought for us and sacrificed for us."

Maybe it is not so surprising if you know the dedication Brian put into everything he did from a very early age. Jack Wright, Brian's Sunday school teacher, remembers when Brian was a young middle school student who would participate in the two-hand touch football games that were played after Bible study services on Wednesday nights.

"Brian was never the biggest or fastest," Jack says, "But no one put more effort into the game and no one enjoyed playing any better than Brian."

That enthusiasm carried over when Brian joined the football team at Drakes Creek Middle School. Brian also liked basketball and baseball and could often find a pickup game with the neighborhood kids many nights after school.

In high school, Brian joined the Junior ROTC Program, and just like in those football games, he put his all into becoming the best. He succeeded by being in the first group to complete his ROTC Program's Leadership Academy.

That achievement was symbolized, on Brian's dress uniform, by a silver band around his right shoulder. Jack Wright remembers Brian would proudly wear his ROTC uniform to services at Woodburn Baptist Church for many years.

Brian still found time for fun, of course. He loved to fish, explore the caves near his house, and float down the creek in his friend's boat. One time Brian and some of his friends were racing go-carts and decided to hold a contest to see who could drive through a huge mud puddle and come out the muddiest.

This is one contest Brian's parents are probably glad he did not win. Another boy was so muddy that when his mom came to pick him up, she made him ride home in the trunk rather than on the seat.

Brian was close to his sister Brandie and his brother Henry. When they were kids, Brandie made Brian play dolls with her, although the easy-going Brian did not seem to mind. Henry was his big brother's little shadow. The two would watch wrestling together and act out the wrestling moves.

Henry remembers during one of his football games at school, both his parents were unable to attend. Henry was not doing so well until he heard his big brother Brian cheering him on from the sidelines. That gave him the extra confidence he needed.

Brian's mother Shirley also remembers a time when she and Toney went away for the weekend, and Brian called her to say he was cooking dinner for some friends and not to worry, they were sharing the cost. He said he would have food ready for them, too, when they got back.

So Shirley and Toney came home to find Brian had barbecued, and they sat

down to a wonderful meal. It was not until the next day when Shirley realized Brian had emptied out the freezer, and there was nothing left in the house to cook.

Brian graduated from Greenwood High School in 2003, and after serving as commander of his school's Junior ROTC Program, he enlisted in the Army. He was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, stationed in Vicenza, Italy.

Brian's family remembers how Brian loved what he was doing and took pride in his work. His mother Shirley was proud of her son's humanitarian work in uniform. In Afghanistan he distributed seeds to the Afghan farmers and helped provide security for the engineers to build roads and rebuild the country.

Madam President, we must keep Brian's family and friends in our thoughts as I recount his story for the Senate today. We are thinking of his mother and father, Shirley and Toney Gorham; his sister Brandie Dixon, and her husband Lawrence; his brother Henry; his maternal grandparents, Roger and Esther Bunch; his paternal grandmother, Neil Tabor; his aunt, Regina Peterson; and many other beloved family members and friends.

Madam President, Brian had a 1976 Chevy pickup that was passed down through the family. He called it Old Blue. He would often have a hard time starting it and had to wake up his sister to start it for him on some days.

When Brian was in the hospital in Texas, he told his father that he wanted the two of them to work on restoring Old Blue together. Brian did not get to finish that task. But Toney has the pickup in his garage now, and he promises to fulfill his son's wish.

Our country must also fulfill a promise to PFC Brian L. Gorham and forever honor his service. It is the least we can do after his tremendous sacrifice.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1390, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1390) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Kyl amendment No. 1760, to pursue United States objectives in bilateral arms control with the Russian Federation.